

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An agent for detecting a sentinel lymph node of a human being, comprising fluorescent particles having a diameter of equal to or more than 200 nm and equal to or less than 1000 nm, the particles being capable of absorbing excitation light having a wavelength of less than 600 nm and emitting fluorescence having a wavelength from 600 to 900 nm.

2. (Currently Amended) An agent for detecting a sentinel lymph node of a small mammal other than a human being, comprising fluorescent particles having a diameter of equal to or more than 40 nm and less than 200 nm, the particles being capable of absorbing excitation light having a wavelength of less than 600 nm and emitting fluorescence having a wavelength from 600 to 900 nm.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The agent for detecting a sentinel lymph node according to Claim 2, characterized in that at least a part of the surface of the fluorescent particles is constituted by organopolysiloxane.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a sentinel lymph node of a small mammal other than a human being, characterized by comprising:

a step of injecting into a living body of a small mammal other than a human being fluorescent particles having a diameter of equal to or more than 40 nm and less than 200 nm and being capable of absorbing excitation light having a wavelength of less than 600 nm and emitting fluorescence having a wavelength from 600 to 900nm;

a step of radiating excitation energy near a point of the injection on the small mammal; and
a step of detecting fluorescence emitted from the fluorescent particles.

6. (Previously Presented) The agent for detecting a sentinel lymph node according to Claim 1, characterized in that at least a part of the surface of the fluorescent particles is constituted by organopolysiloxane.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a sentinel lymph node of a human being, characterized by comprising:

a step of injecting into a living body of a human being fluorescent particles having a diameter of equal to or more than 200 nm and equal to or less than 1000 nm and being capable of absorbing excitation light having a wavelength of less than 600 nm and emitting fluorescence having a wavelength from 600 to 900 nm;

a step of radiating excitation energy near a point of the injection on the human being; and
a step of detecting fluorescence emitted from the fluorescent particles.

8. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting a sentinel lymph node according to Claim 5, characterized in that at least a part of the surface of the fluorescent particles is constituted by organopolysiloxane.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for detecting a sentinel lymph node according to Claim 7, characterized in that at least a part of the surface of the fluorescent particles is constituted by organopolysiloxane.